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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The monopoly that ATT&T and their corporate partners are struggling to hold on to is nothing less than a stranglehold on the free distribution of information towards the public good! Now, following after the last recent fiasco (where they have managed to bully through a legislation which killed any hope of net neutrality) and their current attempt shows how they and their trade association, US Telecom, have recently petitioned the FCC to take away access to critical unbundled network elements. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city fiber; the very technology that allow ISPs to grow, expand fiber deployment, and compete.

Great swathes of this country are in a 'information blackout' as many rural areas can not depend on these major companies to provide coverage. That is why local 3rd party ISP are a critical component to providing the average American student or professional with access to vital services.

By denying access to their physical infrastructure they are alienating a huge portion of their customer base and exerting unfair pressure on rival small business owners, leading to potentially higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options besides what they decide to give you.

Please allow for diligent research into this issue to halt the growing trend of power plays and corruption over the free flow of data and information!

Aaron Peverill